

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

M.W. Sevak
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

December 20, 2011

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., and Mike Sevak

Others present: Christine Southard, Sharon Rose, Dana Ferguson, and Duane Neal

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Commissioner John Brown called the meeting to order at 10:40 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- A. Discussion of the Special Gravette School District Election: Christine Southard stated that she has received the ballot proofs from ES&S and all the information has been entered into the portal. Christine asked the commissioner's for approval and to sign the ballot proof. Chairman Brown asked Commissioner Sevak if he had any questions or comments. Chairman Brown stated there were no objections and he and Commissioner Sevak signed the ballot proof. Christine gave the commissioners a spreadsheet from the May, 2010 Primary Election and the September, 2011 Annual School Election to show the number of registered voters per precinct and to show the percentage of paper ballots cast. Christine suggested twenty-five (25) paper ballots per precinct for the Special Gravette School District Election. In the December 14, 2011 meeting, Commissioner Tumey wanted fifty (50) paper ballots per precinct. Christine reported that there will be at least two (2) Ivotronics per precinct. Chairman Brown tabled the discussion until Commissioner Tumey could be present. Chairman Brown took a brief five (5) minute recess to take a call from Commissioner Tumey. Commissioner Tumey stated to Chairman Brown that fifty (50) paper ballots should be ordered for the Special Gravette School District Election. Chairman Brown asked Christine if the Ballot on Demand would be operable. Christine responded that she did not order the BOD because of the cost. Christine asked Chairman Brown if one or two Ivotronics are to be sent to each precinct. Chairman Brown responded that one Ivotronic would be sufficient. Christine stated that she ordered additional media for back-up. Chairman Brown asked Christine if the Gravette School District publishes the election. Christine responded that the Gravette School District does publish the election and the commission is required to have two (2) publications.

- B. Discussion regarding voting precincts: Dana Ferguson stated that she completed a draft combining the precincts that are voting together and this reduces the number of precincts from eighty-three (83) to fifty-seven (57). Dana stated that after these changes are made, that there are only four (4) precincts in which it affects the polling sites and the other locations will just have to be renumbered. Dana stated for example, the old precincts 1 and 3, which votes at the Gravette Civic Center, were combined into Precinct 1. Precinct 2, which votes at the Sulphur Springs Community Building, remains unchanged, while the old precincts 78 and 80, which voted at the Monte Ne Baptist Church, were consolidated into Precinct 3. Dana stated that one polling location was changed because the polling site was no longer available and the other changes allow voters a closer place to vote within their precincts. Commissioner Sevak asked Dana if these changes were the only changes that were discussed in the December 14, 2011 meeting. Dana responded yes, that these were the only changes. Commissioner Sevak made a motion to accept the new precincts along with the map as presented by Dana. Chairman Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commission Sevak asked Dana if the map has to go before the public. Dana responded that the map will be published ten (10) days prior to the election.

Public Comments:

Duane Neal asked Chairman Brown if there was going to be a problem with ES&S in the precinct numbering. Christine stated that the numbers are in consecutive order and will not be a problem. Dana stated that there cannot be a gap in the numbering for ES&S. Duane asked how this would be published. Dana stated the Clerk's Office will send out notices to all registered voters in January detailing their precincts and polling locations. Chairman Brown stated that the cities can still change their ward boundaries, which would require more work on the precincts and polling locations. Dana stated that the cities have until June to make changes in their ward boundaries.

Other Business:

Sharon Rose reported that she spoke with Rob Hammons from the Secretary of State office concerning the scheduling of repairs on the Ivotronics. Rob stated that Julian, the technician, has been very busy throughout the state and that in addition to repairs, he is also changing the motherboard, which is an internal battery, in all machines. The cost of changing the motherboard will be incurred by the Secretary of State Office. Sharon stated that she will contact ES&S for an update on scheduling the repairs.

Announcements:

Christine stated that the billing for the school elections have been paid except for Bentonville. The Bentonville School District is scheduled to have the check signed today and mailed by the end of the year.

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sevak. The meeting adjourned at 1:02 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sevak, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose, Election Commission Staff